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TEMPE MAN CHARGED WITH DISTRIBUTING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

PHOENIX – Scott Lavern Nelson, 19, of Tempe, Ariz appeared in U.S. District Court here today following his arrest by federal agents Wednesday evening on charges of Distribution of Child Pornography through a computer file sharing program.

According to a criminal complaint, Nelson's Tempe residence was the subject of a search warrant executed by the FBI on April 10. According to the complaint, during an interview with agents, Nelson stated that he downloaded approximately 70 images depicting child pornography through the file sharing program Limewire, and that he was aware these pictures were located in a file sharing folder that was accessed by others using the Limewire program, in addition to possessing floppy disks where he had copied images of child pornography.

Nelson made his initial appearance before U.S. Magistrate Judge Edward C. Voss in U.S. District Court in Phoenix on Thursday. Judge Voss ordered Nelson detained. A detention and preliminary hearing is scheduled for April 17 at 2:00 p.m.

A conviction for Distribution of Child Pornography carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, and up to lifetime supervision. In determining an actual sentence, the judge will consult the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

A criminal complaint is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Tempe Police Department. The prosecution is being handled by Vincent Q Kirby, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: 07-7104M

RELEASE NUMBER: 2007-106(Nelson)